



1-644: Vancouver Island Small Lake  
Enrichment Program



HABITAT  
CONSERVATION TRUST  
FOUNDATION

## 2026-2027 Approved Project List

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## Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
BC's Family Fishing Weekend	0-229	BC's Family Fishing Weekend (FFW) is held annually on Father's Day Weekend and is an opportunity for people to fish licence-free from June 19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> , 2026. The Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC supports approximately 35 events held across the province, with the aim of reducing barriers to entry for fishing and increasing environmental stewardship and awareness. FFW provides an opportunity for youth and their families to spend time together in nature while learning about how to fish responsibly and sustainably.	\$15,000	Jenna Merth  Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
Conservation Lands Operation & Management	0-451	This program provides funding to assist with the operation and management of approximately 128 significant wildlife habitat areas across B.C., overseen by the Nature Trust of BC or the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.	\$680,000	Christina Waddle  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
NABat, BatCaver, and Beyond: Protecting BC's Bats	0-511	Since 2011, WCS Canada has built strong province-wide baselines for bat species distributions, activity, disease surveillance, mitigation effectiveness, and identification of critical winter habitat. In 2026, WCS Canada will synthesize findings across winter, migration, and summer periods, advance understanding of endangered species' habitat use, support white-nose syndrome surveillance, and evaluate roost enhancement structures to offset habitat loss.	\$87,678	Cori Lausen  WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Mitigating White-Nose Syndrome: Probiotics and Long-term Bat Monitoring	0-536	White-nose syndrome (WNS) continues to spread in the Pacific Northwest, with the fungus that causes the disease having been detected in southern B.C. in 2022. Locations where bats hibernate in western North America are largely unknown, creating an urgent need for sentinel monitoring sites. WCS Canada, partnering with McMaster University and Washington Fish and Wildlife, established 11 monitoring sites in the Pacific Northwest to test the efficacy of an anti-WNS probiotic as a disease prevention tool, which is now showing promising results for reducing WNS-caused mortalities.	\$84,020	Cori Lausen  WCS Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Moose Responses to Fine-scale Thermal and Forest Harvest Practices	0-541	This project expands on identified knowledge gaps from over a decade of moose population monitoring in interior B.C. and recent research highlighting the need to better understand the response of moose to a modified landscape under the pressures of forest harvest and climate change. It will build on long-term monitoring of moose and the results of research on survival, recruitment, diet, behaviour, health, and predation to assess the risks and responses of moose in study areas characterized by large-scale forest harvest, changing wildfire regimes, unpredictable weather events, and gradual climate shifts. Outcomes are expected to inform land use practices, with a particular emphasis on effective policy and practice for forest management in a changing climate.	\$61,000	Morgan Anderson  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Quality Waters Strategy - West Coast	0-545	This project focuses on fishery information activities on the Classified Waters of the Cowichan River. These activities, such as a creel survey, aim to establish baselines of angler effort and catch, increasing the quality of information on the river fisheries and supporting engagement with stakeholders and First Nations.	\$35,000	Brian Titaro  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
CSISS Invasive Mussel Monitoring 2026	0-546	This project will undertake plankton tow sampling in lakes in the Columbia Shuswap region to monitor for the presence of invasive mussels.	\$71,000*	Laura Gaster  Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
The BC Furbearer Project	0-620	The British Columbia Furbearer Project is a wildlife tissue biobank with a mission to collect, preserve, and share biological samples to maximize opportunities for scientific research. Tissue samples from 23 species of furbearers across B.C. have been collected, catalogued, and preserved, and are now available to researchers by request to support on-the-ground habitat management, enhancement or restoration decisions, or to provide new and innovative science on furbearer ecology, health, genetics, and conservation.	\$69,270	Jamie Gorrell University of Northern BC
Helping Forest Licensees Conserve Fisher Habitat in Their Operations	0-627	Forest harvesting drastically affects the supply of habitat for fishers and is a primary threat facing this species in B.C. Fortunately, many opportunities exist during forest management when forestry professionals can voluntarily include fisher habitat considerations into their decision-making processes and conserve important habitats. This project aims to continue and improve the delivery of the Fisher Habitat Extension Program, designed to help "habitat influencers" (i.e., those who make decisions that affect fisher habitat) maintain habitat for fishers and other furbearers during forest development.	\$45,000	Rich Weir Artemis Wildlife Consultants
Interior Fraser Wild Steelhead Conservation	0-631	This project is for the continued monitoring of abundance, productivity, and conservation status of wild Interior Fraser steelhead. It will provide scientific knowledge to inform provincial, federal, and First Nation fisheries management planning, processes, and decisions for conservation and responsible use. The project will provide data and knowledge to encourage coordination of management between provincial and federal fisheries agencies and First Nations.	\$107,480	Robert Bison BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Northern British Columbia Fish Passage Restoration	0-636	This project aims to improve fish passage connectivity in the Skeena and Fraser regions by supporting the replacement or removal of structures that block fish movement at stream crossings (culverts). Dedicated to building restoration capacity, SERNbc is mentoring various partners and using creative data collection and communication methods to learn about ecosystem values and empower a wide range of stakeholders to take action. Activities involve planning, conducting assessments for fish passage and habitat, fish sampling, eDNA sampling, UAV mapping, reporting, and skillfully monitoring restoration effectiveness both before and after the replacement or removal of structures.	\$77,780	Allan Irvine Society for Ecosystem Restoration Northern BC
Quality Waters – Headquarters	0-644	This project focuses on Provincial Quality Waters Strategy (QWS) review, planning, and coordination. The activities focus on meeting with regions regarding the potential classification of rivers and a general review of priorities for QWS, updates or improvements to regional Angling Management Plans, and a review of regulations within the regions of the QWS program (e.g., Skeena and Omineca).	\$2,200	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Updating Best Practices for Fish Habitat Restoration in British Columbia	0-686	This seed project aims to update and modernize the Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Procedures, a foundational document originally developed in 1997 to guide fish habitat restoration efforts within forestry-impacted watersheds. Significant resources have been invested in habitat restoration; however, there has been limited direction in aligning efforts with measurable outcomes and coordinated priorities. The updated guidance will provide clarity and direction in restoring aquatic habitat by updating restoration techniques (e.g., Beaver Dam Analogues, flow augmentation through beaver dam piping, engineered log jams, etc.), identifying current provincial and federal regulatory processes, best management practices for instream works, reducing risks to aquatic ecosystems, and enhancing confidence in restoration investments to support fish populations	\$10,000	Emmanuel Abecia BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Multiple Regions

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Invasive Plant Management Across NCC Conservation Lands in Interior B.C.	0-689	This project's goal is to manage invasive plants across several Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) conservation areas in the interior, including Lac du Bois Conservation Area, Lincoln Creek Ranch, and Napier Lake Ranch Conservation Area, by performing chemical and mechanical treatments on invasive plant infestations. Building on previous invasive plant management, reducing the threat of invasive plant species across NCC lands throughout the interior of B.C. will help to promote the rich biodiversity that these grassland landscapes are known for.	\$60,000+	Sarah Bayliff  Nature Conservancy of Canada



0-511: NABat, BatCaver, and Beyond: Protecting BC's Bats

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Vancouver Island	1-72	Operation and maintenance of the aeration program at Glen Lake, flow augmentation in Sandhill Creek, inspection and maintenance of fishways located in the Gordon River and Colquitz Creek, and an annual dam inspection at Keogh Lake.	\$21,800	Scott Silvestri  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Vancouver Island Small Lake Enrichment Program	1-644	In partnership with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, this program provides kokanee salmon and rainbow trout for fisheries regionally. Through the addition of liquid nutrients, altered stocking regimes, and modified angling regulations, this program has been shown to improve fish growth and produce larger fish available for angling on Vancouver Island.	\$59,683	Aaron Androsoff  BC Conservation Foundation
Western Toad Habitat Stewardship on ʔukʷaaʔaṭh Lands	1-766	The goal of the project is to sustain the breeding population of Western Toads at Cadillac Lake, the only known breeding site within the traditional territory of the Toquaht Nation. Barriers and signage will be installed to protect egg-laying habitat and emerging toadlets from recreational disturbance. Invasive species will be removed, native vegetation planted, and downed logs will be added to provide a shrubby meadow habitat next to the lake where toads can bask for thermoregulation and readily find cover to prevent desiccation and avoid predators.	\$23,861	Barbara Beasley  Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot & Barkley Sounds
French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve Habitat Restoration	1-807	This project addresses the loss of biodiversity caused by habitat disturbance and the spread of invasive plant species within this ecologically sensitive area. The goal is to implement restoration activities that will lead to enhanced biodiversity and habitat quality for a range of species, including insects, migrating birds, waterfowl, fish, mammals, and blue-listed avian aerial insectivores. Activities will involve: removal and management of invasive plant species to reduce their impacts on ecosystem function and allow greater species diversity; planting native trees, shrubs, and groundcover species to improve habitat quality and species diversity in an area with limited native vegetation; and monitoring the effectiveness of restoration efforts to progress towards long-term enhancement and conservation of biodiversity.	\$25,265	Ray Woroniak  Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Society
Vancouver Island Steelhead Stock Decline Investigations	1-826	This project will evaluate the current abundance of wild summer-run steelhead on several rivers across Vancouver Island. Given the continued bleak returns of winter-run steelhead across Vancouver Island and the more recent decrease in summer-run returns, this project will expand ongoing standard stock assessment work to include several more systems across Vancouver Island.	\$63,750*	Danny Swainson  BC Conservation Foundation
Responding to Fish Kills on the Cowichan River Through Enhanced Monitoring	1-834	In response to the summertime fish kill event on the Cowichan River in 2023, this project will support a coordinated and enhanced multi-agency monitoring program of the Cowichan River fish stocks and fish habitat conditions through 2026. This information will allow managers and decision-makers the ability to evaluate the degree to which impacts on juvenile fish in 2023 may carry forward, identify early season indicators of stressful environmental conditions, and support in-season opportunities for response and/or mitigation.	\$37,570	Jeremy Damborg  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Life-cycle Monitoring of Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Dolly Varden	1-850	This project supports freshwater riverine research initiatives to aid in the management of steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, Dolly Varden, and coho salmon. The associated dataset from the Keogh (Giyuxw) River represents the longest continuous compilation of abundance and biological characteristics of salmonids in the Pacific Northwest.	\$52,388	Trevor Davies  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Learning From the Best: Bringing the Beaver Back to Beaver Creek	1-939	This project aims to partner with beavers to restore sections of Beaver Creek that have been degraded by industrial logging and road-building using methods that will improve habitat for Species at Risk and other native wildlife, freshwater quality, stream structure, and ecosystem health. The approach will be to remove human infrastructure that impedes natural hydrology and beaver activity, then bring the community together to employ low-tech process-based techniques to restore high-quality habitat and attract beavers back to Beaver Creek. The long-term goal of these efforts is the highest level of ecological recovery and productivity possible in a watershed historically impacted by industrial forestry, so that it can be sustained over the long-term by beavers and other native species.	\$62,705	Adam Huggins Galiano Conservancy Association
Coastal Cutthroat Trout Habitat Restoration in the Lower Colquitz River	1-945	Colquitz River, located in Saanich, has been identified by the BC Regional Fisheries Program as a priority watershed for coastal cutthroat trout revitalization. In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the District of Saanich, Peninsula Streams Society will restore degraded riparian and in-stream habitats by re-establishing native vegetation and enhancing instream complexity. The project will also monitor cutthroat trout populations to measure restoration success and guide future watershed management.	\$56,025	Katrina Adams Peninsula Streams Society
Assessing and Improving Fish Habitat in Nanaimo's Urban Streams	1-946	Urban watershed ecosystems have been heavily modified by human activity, creating fragmented and impaired habitats in need of restoration. This seed project supports coordinating and engaging in planning and collaboration, and ultimately aims to improve fish habitat in sensitive urban streams in Nanaimo and the surrounding area.	\$10,000*	Haley Tomlin BC Conservation Foundation
Trialing the Use of Trail Cameras to Assess Urban Stream Connectivity	1-953	This seed project aims to develop and refine the use of trail cameras as a method to monitor stream connectivity during summer low-flow periods to examine the timing, extent, and duration of extreme low-flow events in small, urban streams in Nanaimo and surrounding areas, with the primary objective of documenting when connectivity issues arise and for how long. The aim is that the use of cameras as a flow monitoring tool will provide a low-cost, low-barrier option to support wide-scale and/or high-resolution flow/stream connectivity investigations in sensitive urban streams that support vulnerable trout, salmon, and amphibian populations.	\$10,000	Ally Wall BC Conservation Foundation
Oak Haven and Havenwood	1-955	Oak Haven and Havenwood Park are ecologically significant, permanently conserved areas surrounded by developments on southern Vancouver Island. They provide vital habitat for native plants and wildlife while offering residents opportunities to connect with nature. HAT's stewardship efforts focus on controlling invasive species, restoring native vegetation, and supporting the long-term health and resilience of Garry Oak and Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems. In collaboration with local municipalities and the Łəkʷəŋən, W̱SÁNEĆ, T'Sou-ke, and SC'ÁWNEW Nations, this work integrates cultural importance and ecological restoration with community engagement.	\$59,957+	Vanessa Brownlee Habitat Acquisition Trust
ŪIKEL Wetland Habitat Restoration	1-957	The ŪIKEL Wetland Management Project will enhance and maintain one of the last remaining large wetlands on the Saanich Peninsula. Through regular water management, invasive species removal, native plant propagation, and improved access controls, the W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society will strengthen habitat for migratory birds, amphibians, and fish species such as coastal cutthroat trout. This three-year project will ensure ŪIKEL continues to provide high-quality wildlife habitat and clean water within the Graham and Hagan Creek watershed while laying the groundwork for future restoration.	\$59,570+	Katie Blake W̱SÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Talking Trees - Mid-Island Protected Areas Network	1-958	The 42-hectare Talking Trees Nature Reserve, protecting Ganner Creek and some of the oldest intact Coastal Douglas-fir forests remaining on Galiano Island, is the most recent addition to the Galiano Conservancy's Mid-Island Protected Areas Network (MIPAN). Several properties within MIPAN, including Talking Trees, are being actively reinhabited by beaver and require a renewed approach to stewardship, in partnership with Indigenous people. This project will result in new or updated management plans for these lands, as well as the implementation of beaver-inspired watershed restoration, forest rehabilitation, introduced species removal, and trail construction activities.	\$59,983+	Adam Huggins Galiano Conservancy Association
Vulture Ridge Nature Reserve	1-960	This project will support the land management and stewardship of two newly acquired PICA nature reserves on Clam Bay Road, Pender Island. This will be accomplished through targeted activities: development of land management plans, implementation of invasive species removal, surveys and monitoring for rare species and wildlife, coordination of a Sanctuary Stewards volunteer program and volunteer engagement, and development and maintenance of low-impact trails for access for monitoring and land stewardship activities.	\$59,917**	Erin O'Brien Pender Island Conservancy Association
KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest	1-961	Through active land stewardship, Raincoast will conserve the ecological, cultural, and community values of S,DÁYES Flycatcher Forest and KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest. The goal is to protect, restore, and conserve threatened Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems and associated habitats to increase local biodiversity and mitigate the rapidly progressing impacts of climate change. The goal will be achieved by working with local WŚÁNEĆ community members and experts, professional biologists, long-term project partners, and experienced local stewards to carry out holistic management actions for the sustainable conservation of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems and associated habitats.	\$59,940+	Priya Puri Raincoast Conservation Foundation
The Ayrie; Within a Protected Areas Network	1-963	This project supports stewardship activities across a vital network of protected areas on Denman Island: providing capacity for high-priority planning, sensitive habitat and long-term biodiversity protection, and sustainable human use within these areas of Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems. The project includes carrying out essential monitoring and research to inform decision making, ecosystem-based actions to safeguard and enhance native biodiversity, creation of important infrastructure to allow responsible human use of these protected areas, and relationship building, community education, and awareness of the importance of these spaces.	\$35,855**	Andy Blackburn Denman Conservancy Association
Ginn's Conservation Area	1-964	The Ginns Property is a 23-hectare conservation area on southern Vancouver Island that protects rare and threatened ecosystems within the Coastal Douglas-fir moist maritime biogeoclimatic zone. By working closely with Habitat Acquisition Trust, local Nations, and community members, WŚÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society seeks to ensure the long-term ecological well-being and protection of this ecologically unique and vital parcel of land through habitat restoration and stewardship, supporting native biodiversity and Species at Risk and enhancing regional habitat connectivity.	\$24,633+	Katie Blake WŚÁNEĆ Lands Trust Society

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 1: Vancouver Island

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Tsartlip Stewardship Department for MÁWUEĆ	1-965	The MÁWUEĆ Restoration Project, led by WJOLELP (Tsartlip) First Nation in partnership with Peninsula Streams & Shorelines, is restoring and protecting the 78-hectare MÁWUEĆ property within the KÉNNES watershed. The project focuses on stream restoration, invasive species control, and native planting to improve water quality, enhance fish and wildlife habitats, and support the recovery of Garry Oak meadow, riparian, wetland, and stream ecosystems. Partnerships with local schools, Knowledge Holders, and Elders will help inform the restoration processes, construct traditional medicine gardens, and strengthen community land stewardship for generations to come.	\$34,144**	William Morris Tsartlip First Nation
Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve, Salt Spring Island	1-966	This project will protect and restore critical habitats for species at risk on Salt Spring Island, within the highly endangered Coastal Douglas-fir and Garry Oak ecosystems. The Salt Spring Island Conservancy will undertake habitat restoration, invasive species control, and native plant re-establishment across four nature reserves to enhance ecosystem health and climate resilience. Community volunteers and partners will play a key role in maintaining and monitoring restored areas to support long-term biodiversity recovery.	\$59,560**	Clare Cullen Salt Spring Island Conservancy
Matson Conservation Area	1-967	The Matson Conservation Area (MCA) is a unique urban sanctuary in Ləkʷəŋən territory on southern Vancouver Island where Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) is stewarding a rare Garry Oak ecosystem to help restore ecological functions and support the ecological health of the region. This project focuses on removing invasive species, restoring native plants and wildlife habitat, and protecting the site's ecological and cultural values. Working closely with the Esquimalt and Songhees communities as well as local volunteers, HAT aims to make MCA not only a model of ecological restoration but also a hub for public learning and community connection.	\$57,421**	Vanessa Brownlee Habitat Acquisition Trust



1-834: Responding to Fish Kills on the Cowichan River Through Enhanced Monitoring

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Learn to Fish Program (L2F)	2-390	Learn to Fish (L2F) is designed to break down barriers to recreational fishing by introducing youth and adults to the activity. The program includes instruction on angling licence requirements, regulations, fish identification, non-native introduced species, endangered species, fishing ethics, and technical fishing skills. L2F is delivered across all regions of the province to approximately 30,000 participants annually and has reached over 440,000 participants since its inception in 2006.	\$80,000	Mike Gass  Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
Invasive Mussel Lake Monitoring in the Sea to Sky Region	2-644	Through this project, the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council will conduct mussel veliger sampling in Alta Lake.	\$2,382	Erin Galloway  Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
Invasive Mussels Monitoring in the Fraser Valley	2-645	This project will monitor lakes in the Fraser Valley region for invasive mussels through veliger sampling and substrate monitoring.	\$12,250*	Kathy Ma  Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society
Juvenile White Sturgeon Monitoring Program	2-692	This project uses paid and volunteer angling guide efforts to capture and tag juvenile white sturgeon in the Fraser River and tributaries from Delta/Richmond to Yale. The goal is to increase the sample size of juvenile fish and the amount of juvenile mark-recapture data to improve understanding of distribution, growth rates, abundance, and recruitment trends for this key life stage.	\$106,900	Caroline Melville  InStream Fisheries Research Inc.
Juvenile White Sturgeon Critical Habitat in the Pitt River Watershed	2-715	This telemetry study addresses uncertainties regarding the migration behaviour and habitat use of Lower Fraser River juvenile sturgeon. Research completed in the Pitt River watershed across a variety of intact and altered habitat types will help discern habitat use preferences and identify critical rearing and overwintering habitats for the juvenile life stage. It will provide managers with appropriately scaled data to develop and justify habitat protections and restoration initiatives that will be key for white sturgeon recovery.	\$64,475	Allison Hebert  InStream Fisheries Research Inc.
University of British Columbia Coyote Project	2-785	This project seeks to gain a comprehensive understanding of anthropogenic impacts on urban coyotes to help reduce human-coyote conflict in urban areas and aid wildlife managers by providing data on how much human-derived food urban coyotes are eating, how healthy urban coyotes are, and which coyotes are most likely to exhibit aggressive behaviours towards humans. Combining field-based observational methods with several analytical techniques will determine how urbanization is impacting the diet and health of urban coyotes and test hypothesis regarding which coyotes are likely to come into conflict with humans.	\$90,891	Sarah Benson-Amram  University of British Columbia
Alouette Reservoir Bull Trout Assessment	2-787	Bull trout are an endemic species of char that are blue-listed and identified as a species of Special Concern under SARA/COSEWIC. This project will address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout within the Lower Fraser Ecological Drainage Unit, contribute to long-term paired adult counts with estimates of juvenile abundance to provide estimates of stock productivity, inform the Province's understanding of bull trout population at low abundance near conservation thresholds which is a current gap, and assess whether the catch and release fishery of bull trout on Alouette is sustainable.	\$36,899	Jennifer Sarchuk  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Skagit River Bull Trout Status Assessment	2-788	This project seeks to address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout within B.C, especially within the core area of the Puget Sound Ecological Drainage Unit. Recent discussions around the potential range extension of salmon into the upper Skagit River provide a unique opportunity to obtain baseline information prior to any formal decision. Based on information from a previous HCTF-supported project, linear development (logging and mining) has impacted the watershed. Work will potentially lead to the development of habitat protection using wildlife habitat areas.	\$24,969*	Greg Andrusak  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Restoring Priority Habitats in South Coast Conservation Lands	2-790	This project enhances and restores rare and degraded habitats across provincial conservation lands on B.C.'s South Coast, including the coastal dune ecosystem at Boundary Bay Wildlife Management Area and the wetland ecosystem at the Forslund-Watson Conservation Area. Through invasive species management, native vegetation planting, monitoring, and collaborative restoration planning, it will improve habitat quality and ecological resilience in landscapes impacted by urbanization and climate change.	\$84,557	Alison Martin Ducks Unlimited Canada
Habitat Resilience – Hicks Creek & Maria Slough	2-876	This seed project will focus on priority fish and wildlife habitats across Seabird Island to support coastal cutthroat trout in Hicks Creek and Maria Slough. It will support conducting an inventory of fish species present (native and invasive) and the development of a methodology for the control and removal of invasive fish species.	\$10,000*	Jillian Stewart-Szpak Seabird Island Band
Hastings Creek Fishway Restoration	2-880	The North Shore Streamkeepers will be working with Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd. to restore a fishway on Hastings Creek in North Vancouver. The fishway was originally installed at the Hoskins Road crossing in 1979 by the Squaretailers Rod and Reel Club and has since been degraded, blocking access to the middle and upper reaches of Hastings Creek. Populations of cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, and coho salmon use the fishway to access some of the most valuable spawning and rearing habitat on Hastings Creek and its tributaries.	\$12,290*	Glen Milan North Shore Streamkeepers
FVL - Working with Fraser Valley Farmers to Support Our Grassland Raptors	2-881	This project builds on the FVC's successful at-risk owl stewardship program and integrates the Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust's farmer set-aside program. Through these established programs, FVC will restore habitat, protect nest sites, and promote raptor-friendly land-use practices. Using the barn owl as an umbrella species, this project will address the primary threat to all grassland raptors—habitat loss in the Fraser Valley lowlands—while also expanding knowledge of raptor habitat use in data-deficient areas.	\$58,256	Joanne Neilson Fraser Valley Conservancy
Coquihalla River Bull Trout Status Assessment: Lower Fraser EDU	2-884	Bull trout are an endemic species of char widely distributed within B.C. This project seeks to address data gaps for the conservation and management of bull trout in the province, especially within the core area of the Lower Fraser Ecological Drainage Unit, as detailed in Hagen and Decker (2011). Little information exists on bull trout populations in this area, and the population is thought to be small (< 200 adults). Linear development, including forestry and gas/oil pipelines are considered to be a threat in the area.	\$17,293	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Coquihalla River Steelhead Spawner Surveys	2-888	The primary goal of the project is to improve abundance estimates of summer-run steelhead spawners in the Coquihalla River by using radio telemetry in combination with snorkel surveys. The data will support fisheries management and conservation planning by informing population status assessments and providing habitat usage information. Improvements to the reliability of the Coquihalla summer run data set will support its utility as a coastal steelhead index stream for comparing steelhead trends across regions with varying run timing, migration patterns, and interception risks.	\$21,955	Mike Lawrence BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Fraser Valley Raptor Management Plan- Data Synthesis & Framework	2-891	This project will modernize and expand upon B.C.'s raptor management framework, the Preliminary Raptorial Bird Management Plan for B.C. It will compile and synthesize all available data, literature, and expert knowledge to develop a modern Fraser Valley Lowlands Raptor Management Plan that will serve as a regional model for raptor conservation and research coordination. This would represent the first formal update in over 50 years, guiding future raptor management in the most raptor-diverse and ecologically important regions of the province.	\$10,000*	Myles Lamont The Hancock Wildlife Foundation

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 2: Lower Mainland

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Advancing Habitat Knowledge for Coastal Giant Salamander Conservation	2-895	The Coastal Giant Salamander is an at-risk amphibian found mostly within the Chilliwack River Valley in and around mountain streams and nearby forests. Its terrestrial phase is poorly understood compared to its aquatic and larval phases, so this project proposes to develop and, if feasible, test a targeted survey methodology within its terrestrial habitats. The results of such surveys would inform land-use planning, conservation prioritization, and policy implementation, resulting in threat mitigation.	\$10,000	Kayla Wiens BC Conservation Foundation
Squamish Wetland Restoration Monitoring and Assessment	2-900	Ephemeral wetlands are drying at accelerated and unpredictable rates, disrupting the life cycles of sensitive species such as the blue-listed Northern Red-legged Frog and many other amphibians in the region. This project will assess four main areas by collecting data on amphibian egg masses, water level, and quality, and evaluate emergence success. Collected data and consultation with experts will help inform restoration priorities and guide the development of a management plan aimed at enhancing the resiliency of these ecosystems to climate change.	\$10,000	Edith Tobe Squamish River Watershed Society
Three Creeks	2-902	This project will protect and enhance the biodiversity of three Fraser Valley Conservancy (FVC) properties in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission that provide habitat for fish, wildlife, and species at risk, and serve as important wildlife refuges within relatively developed areas. Consequently, human activities present the primary threats to their conservation values. This project will support the implementation of FVC's management plans to mitigate the negative impacts of human development, inspire residents to take positive conservation actions through community engagement opportunities, and, most critically, incorporate First Nations' input and perspective into FVC's management plans and stewardship of these properties.	\$59,996+	Joanne Neilson Fraser Valley Conservancy
Earthwise Agassiz Stewardship Program	2-903	This program will ensure the long-term establishment of critical wetland and riparian habitats on a 58-acre conservation site in the eastern Fraser Valley. Building on past restoration efforts, the project will improve ecosystem health through invasive species control, native plant establishment, and habitat monitoring to support species at risk. The site integrates restored habitat with a working organic farm, demonstrating how conservation and sustainable land use can coexist.	\$44,760**	Patricia Fleming Earthwise Society



2-692: Juvenile White Sturgeon Monitoring Program

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Thompson-Nicola	3-94	Operation and maintenance of existing lake aeration, stream diversions, outlet fence, riparian fencing, open diversion ditches, and dam structures that enhance the angling opportunities of high-use lakes within the Thompson-Nicola region.	\$83,400	Andrew Klassen BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Fisheries O&M - Bonaparte	3-154	Operation and maintenance of the Bonaparte Fishway and the Bonaparte Lake Dam.	\$36,100	James Arner BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Fraser River Bighorns: Fraser East Disease Assessment and Herd Recovery	3-419	This will be the final year of this project conducting test and remove treatments of adult ewes in chronically sick herds that are shedding the respiratory bacteria <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> (M. ovi) along the east side of the Fraser River study area. It will also conduct treatment effectiveness monitoring through an autumn lamb survey and lamb M.ovi exposure sampling in previously treated bighorn bands with the involvement of Indigenous communities.	\$72,000	Jeremy Ayotte Phyla Biological Consulting Inc.
Spatsum Thompson Bighorn Sheep Baseline Herd Health Assessment and Movement	3-526	The goal of this project is to improve knowledge of movement dynamics and herd health within the Spatsum population of California bighorn sheep, as little is known about this population, and concerns have been increasing related to range expansion, potential contact with domestic sheep and goat farms, and its location in the interface between populations that have come into contact with domestic sheep and those that haven't. Contact with domestic sheep and goats can lead to the transmission of <i>Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae</i> (M. ovi), a respiratory pathogen and primary causal agent behind pneumonia outbreaks and die-offs in bighorn sheep populations across their range.	\$88,330	Jeremy Ayotte Phyla Biological Consulting Inc.
Roche Lake Shallow Water Aeration Project	3-531	Roche Lake historically was the highest angler use lake per hectare in the province, with an estimated 30,000 angler days/ year. Excessive timber extraction in the headwaters in 2008 and 2016 has created a cyclic eutrophic state each winter throughout the waterbody, which resulted in two full winterkill events (2014 & 2022) and continues to threaten winter trout survival each year. The goal of this project is to create a refugia area through aeration in a large shallow bay that will maintain trout survival at times when the remainder of the lake becomes anoxic.	\$79,350*	Allen Wootton BC Conservation Foundation
Scaling-up Restoration for Wildlife in the Thompson River Watershed	3-532	This project will restore approximately 1.5 km of drought-prone stream and 3.5 hectares of degraded floodplain habitat within the Thompson River watershed, an ecologically and culturally significant watershed where industrial logging has altered natural hydrology and reduced habitat complexity for moose, beavers and other wildlife. In partnership with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc, BCWF will construct at least 40 beaver-dam analogues and post-assisted log structures to reconnect and rewet dry floodplains and store water in the upper watershed for eventual beaver recolonization. These actions will enhance resilience to climatic extremes, including drought, flood and wildfire, expand high-quality moose forage and aquatic habitat, support ecosystem recovery, and help revitalize cultural connections to the land.	\$112,715	Neil Fletcher BC Wildlife Federation
Deadman River Resistivity Counter Repair 2026	3-533	The goal of the project is to repair or replace degrading or broken components in the Deadman River resistivity counter. This work is needed every few years to ensure that the counter can successfully function for the enumeration of steelhead. The operation of the Deadman River resistivity counter is part of a population status monitoring program for Interior Fraser steelhead.	\$67,428	Daniel Ramos-Espinoza InStream Fisheries Research Inc.

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 3: Thompson Nicola

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Assessing the Impact of 6PPD-Quinone on Fish in the Nlaka'pamux Homeland	3-534	This seed funding will be used to carry out activities to develop a full proposal to investigate the impact of 6PPD-quinone, a toxic tire-derived chemical, on culturally important fish species and their habitat within the Nlaka'pamux Homeland. Activities include locating historic fish habitats through Traditional Knowledge and Western science, identifying sampling sites, determining sampling procedures, and developing a sampling schedule.	\$9,823	Breanne McAmmond A.E.W. LP
Thompson-Nicola Invasive Mussel Monitoring	3-536	This project will conduct sampling in Thompson-Nicola region lakes to monitor for the presence of invasive mussels.	\$12,845*	Allen Wootton BC Conservation Foundation



3-419: Fraser River Bighorns: Fraser East Disease Assessment and Herd Recovery

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Kootenay	4-64	Operation and maintenance of two West Kootenay kokanee spawning channels, which support a genetically unique strain of kokanee and associated ecosystem and sport fishery benefits.	\$62,610	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Gerrard Rainbow Trout Critical Monitoring	4-248	The purpose of this project is to monitor the conservation status of the Gerrard stock of a rare ecotype of rainbow trout that supports a socially and economically significant recreational fishery. The project focuses on four key areas: 1) monitor escapement, 2) monitor the quality of critical habitat for Gerrard rainbow trout, 3) estimate fishing effort and harvest of Gerrard rainbow trout for management decisions, and 4) educate the public and protect Gerrard rainbow trout spawners through presence at spawning sites.	\$36,000	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Kootenay Region River Guardian Program	4-444	This project will facilitate River Guardian presence in eight Kootenay Region classified watersheds with the objective of maintaining or improving the quality of angling in these systems and protecting native sport fish populations. River Guardians will provide a compliance presence, educate the public, anglers, and other stakeholders, and collect angler survey data and biological/inventory data.	\$130,500	Kevin Heidt BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Gerrard Rainbow Trout Survival and Predator Reduction Effectiveness	4-539	This project will collect critical information on Gerrard rainbow trout survival and measure the effectiveness of predator reduction activities aimed at recovery efforts on Kootenay Lake. Understanding the compensatory effect of the predators through changes in survival is a key metric for assessing whether recovery efforts are on track. The importance of this information is a necessity given the substantial efforts into reducing this population to lowered abundance intended to assist kokanee recovery.	\$57,697	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Preserving the Ecological Function of BC's Freshwater	4-581	This project will undertake plankton tow sampling in lakes in the Central Kootenay region to monitor for the presence of invasive mussels.	\$20,000	Khaylish Fraser Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society
East Kootenay Invasive Mussels Monitoring	4-582	This project will monitor lakes in the East Kootenay region for invasive mussels through veliger sampling.	\$37,800*	Katie Reid East Kootenay Invasive Species Council
Elk Valley Cottonwood Restoration	4-636	The Elk Valley Floodplain Restoration program is a multi-year landscape-level improvement of riparian and floodplain areas impacted by agriculture and development. This project focuses on overstory regeneration and bank stabilization on four Elk River and wetland riparian sites located in Qukin ʔamakʔis (the Elk Valley): Big Ranch Conservation Complex, Elk River Lodge, Hosmer/Fiorentino Wetland, and Morrissey Meadows. In 2026, ERA staff and volunteers will plant 20,000 trees and shrubs to improve landscape connectivity, biodiversity, and habitat values, and mitigate erosion and downstream flood impacts.	\$30,000*	Chad Hughes Elk River Watershed Alliance
Galton Range Invasive Plant Management	4-686	This project will conduct habitat-based invasive species management in the Galton Mountain Range in collaboration with First Nations and land managers. The goal is to reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in high-value wildlife habitat using a variety of treatment methods and public outreach and education. By building on three years of prior work, the project will enhance ecosystem resilience, protect forage quality, and support the long-term integrity of native habitats.	\$30,866*	Katie Reid East Kootenay Invasive Species Council

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Conservation Partnership	4-688	In 2026-2027, Ducks Unlimited Canada will complete dike breaches and further wetland excavations at Bummers Flats and Moberly Marsh, and complete the Loisselle-Edelmann Beaver Dam analogue wetland restoration project. DUC will continue to effectively steward its footprint of 67,000 hectares of wetland habitats across B.C., and initiate collaboratively monitoring wetland values with First Nations communities in the Cariboo-Chilcotin.	\$250,030	Matthew Wilson Ducks Unlimited Canada
Review of Bull Trout Conservation and Management Actions: Whatshan Reservoir	4-716	This project will assess conservation and management actions implemented for bull trout in Whatshan Reservoir in 2023. Undertaking the assessment will improve understanding and linkages between management actions and the potential population-level responses. The project has direct implications for the management of bull trout fisheries in large lakes and reservoirs throughout B.C.	\$26,647	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
North Trench Elk Collaring Project	4-719	The 2023 Kootenay Elk Stewardship Plan identified significant knowledge gaps for elk in the North Trench population management units, including population size, mortality rates, demographics, distribution, migratory behaviour, and knowledge of population trends - all habitat data is currently unknown. This project aims to collar 30 elk in the region to fill these knowledge gaps and inform evidence-based management of the herds in the North Trench.	\$58,058*	Brian Gustafson Golden District Rod and Gun Club
Kootenay Lake Conservation Measures	4-720	The goal of this project is to continue reducing predation pressure on kokanee through reductions in Gerrard rainbow trout spawners (and bull trout as bycatch). This builds on previous significant management efforts to supplement the kokanee stock and reduce piscivores. In 2013, kokanee spawner abundance decreased to unprecedentedly low numbers along with kokanee survival. After implementation of different management interventions, an increase in age 0-1 and 1-2 survival was detected in 2023, but declined in 2024 and 2025. This project increases further predator reduction efforts to support higher kokanee survival and abundance.	\$165,416*	Molly Teather BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Bull Trout Status and Risk Assessment	4-727	This project will utilize the long-term lake-wide index for bull trout to provide an assessment of population status and trends related to Kootenay Lake recovery activities, specifically associated with predator reduction initiatives undertaken since 2023.	\$12,670	Greg Andrusak BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Southeastern B.C. Black Swift Project	4-775	The Southeastern B.C. Black Swift Project will put habitat protections first by identifying breeding sites of the endangered black swift through targeted surveys, habitat assessments, and stakeholder engagement. Data collected will directly inform critical habitat identification, recovery planning, Best Management Practices for recreation and forestry, and additional habitat protections under provincial (e.g., under FRPA) and federal legislation. These efforts will benefit black swifts and the sensitive waterfall and canyon ecosystems they rely on.	\$37,670	Rachel Darvill Goldeneye Ecological Services
Yellow-breasted Chat Monitoring in the West Kootenays	4-776	The southern mountain population of Yellow-breasted Chats is federally listed as endangered and provincially red-listed. A small population in the West Kootenays appears to be remaining at consistently low numbers, but it is unclear why - this is in contrast to other populations in the interior of B.C., which have seen significant population growth over the past 30 years. This project aims to look more closely at this small population, specifically at adult and juvenile survivorship, to better understand drivers of decline.	\$14,500	Kristen Mancuso Okanagan Nation Alliance
On the Road to Recovery - Restoring Habitat for Columbia North Caribou	4-780	This project will restore 48 hectares of habitat by rehabilitating and planting trees on 40 km of resource roads in core Columbia North caribou range.	\$252,188**	Meghan Anderson Shuswap Indian Band

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 4: Kootenay

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Southern Mountain Caribou - Road Restoration and Connectivity	4-781	This seed funding will support Splatsin and the caribou recovery team in re-prioritizing existing road reclamation data for the Columbia North herd subpopulation of the southern mountain caribou conservation, as well as assist in prioritizing a direction for other grants to expand the caribou recovery program. This Indigenous-led project will also support relationship-building with other agencies and NGOs, and community outreach.	\$10,000*	Adam Christian Splatsin
Columbia Wetlands	4-782	The objective of this project is to develop a multi-year strategic matrix to identify, prioritize, and guide landscape-scale restoration within the Columbia River Wetlands to enable habitat-forming processes. It will evaluate potential process-based restoration opportunities, considering factors such as geomorphic response and ecological benefits of potential actions, feasibility, potential risks and challenges, and relevant stakeholders and decision makers. The result will be a prioritized matrix of viable restoration options, which can be implemented in collaboration with various partners in subsequent years.	\$26,300	Paige Thurston Living Lakes Canada Society
Edwards Pond Fencing	4-784	Through this project, SILT will construct 300 metres of wildlife-friendly, fire-resistant boundary fence to identify the Edwards Pond conservation property boundary and prevent unauthorized motor vehicle access, while allowing walk-in public access for wildlife and nature appreciation. They will also maintain and/or rebuild 500 meters of existing old boundary fence at the Grand Forks Grasslands conservation property, in cooperation with the adjacent private landowner, to reduce the likelihood of livestock trespass.	\$15,000+	Alan Peatt Southern Interior Land Trust



4-636: Elk Valley Cottonwood Restoration

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M – Cariboo	5-44	This program will enhance fisheries through lake aeration on Skulow, Irish and Simon Lakes; operation and maintenance of Haines Creek diversion to the 11 sister lakes; and dams, weirs, and fish passage restoration on other lakes and streams.	\$64,400	Scott Horley  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Quality Waters Strategy - Cariboo Region	5-239	The Dean River guardian program will collect the necessary creel information to administer the Dean River draw and implement the Dean River angling management plan. River guardians on the Chilcotin River will monitor steelhead fisheries' closures due to extreme conservation concerns.	\$111,851	Russell Bobrowski  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Cariboo Region Invasive Mussels Lake Monitoring	5-310	This project will monitor lakes in the Cariboo region for invasive mussels through plankton sampling for veliger detection.	\$21,349	Gail Wallin  Invasive Species Council of BC
Dean River Steelhead Stock Assessment	5-327	This project is a continuation of a previously HCTF-funded study, which evaluated methods to assess the adult abundance of Dean River steelhead and explored their population status. By using a combination of tagging, telemetry, and winter snorkel surveys, the new phase of this study will determine the number of adult steelhead returning to the Dean River each year and evaluate the relationship between the winter abundance of adult steelhead and the reported total catch in the sport fishery.	\$122,661	Russell Bobrowski  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Big Bar Slide Sturgeon Assessment	5-332	This project will evaluate sturgeon movement patterns across the Big Bar slide to inform fish passage structure design. Key knowledge gaps on sturgeon habitat use and behaviour in the mid-Fraser will also be addressed. The study will improve understanding of migration routes and timing between river kilometre 338 and 482, and identify critical overwintering habitat.	\$45,000	Lynn Avis  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Lake Trout Rewards and Acoustic Telemetry	5-339	This project will conduct acoustic tracking and pay cash rewards for lake trout tagged in Horse Lake. Data collected will improve statistical confidence in estimates of both fishing and natural mortality of lake trout in Horse Lake, which is important for interpreting sustainable harvest rates for the species across their range.	\$1,731	Russell Bobrowski  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Nazko Road Restoration	5-351	This project provides critical support to the local moose population, which has experienced significant declines in recent years due to compounding disturbances. Road densities in Nazko First Nation's traditional territory exceed the threshold associated with wildlife population declines by 2-4 times. This project will complete 50 km of road restoration, improving more than 2,000 hectares of moose habitat.	\$132,330	Brandon Geldart  Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC
Central Interior Burbot Exploitation Project	5-356	This project will provide an assessment of the status of burbot in three popular fisheries in B.C.'s Central Interior with a tag/telemetry study of burbot populations in Sulphurous Lake. This will fill valuable data gaps in a wild fish population that can easily be overexploited by evaluating mortality estimates, current exploitation levels, and stock densities, and by establishing an assessment plan to sustain healthy burbot populations.	\$30,105	Scott Horley  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Quesnel Lake Angling Regulations Assessment	5-370	The goal of this project is to ensure angling regulations on Quesnel Lake are sustainable without being unnecessarily restrictive. Daily quotas for both lake trout and rainbow trout have been increased to provide additional harvest opportunities for anglers. This project will evaluate potential fishery and population effects resulting from these increases to ensure long-term viability.	\$64,000	Lee Williston  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 5: Cariboo

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Central Interior Lake Trout Stock Assessment	5-391	This project will assess lake trout stock status in key lake trout populations in the Cariboo region. Information collected will support the development of a Cariboo lake trout stock management framework, which will allow for the evaluation of stock status against biological reference points.	\$50,000	Lynn Avis  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship



5-351: Nazko Road Restoration

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 6: Skeena

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Restoring Whitebark Pine Ecosystems to Enhance Subalpine Bear Habitat	6-227	This will be the 14th year of a multi-partner restoration program to restore whitebark pine ecosystems for bear habitat in the Skeena Region. This year involves: (1) seed collection from known rust resistant trees and expanding collections to new potentially rust resistant trees; (2) contributing seed to blister rust resistant screening; (3) sowing ~112,000 seeds; (4) monitoring established restoration sites for blister rust and other disturbance agents; (5) collaborating with provincial, federal and First Nation partners in capturing wildlife use and habitat values of whitebark pine ecosystems; (6) increasing the exposure and outreach of the program through community events and website updates; and (7) serving as a hub for whitebark pine information and action in northern B.C.	\$70,501	Alana Clason  Bulkley Valley Centre for Natural Resource Research and Management
Quality Waters Strategy - Skeena	6-268	This project includes fishery development and planning activities on the Bulkley, Kispiox, and Morice Rivers, including a review of angler effort targets and the feasibility of lottery booking systems. It also includes stock assessment activities on the Skeena, Kitwanga, and Bulkley Rivers.	\$155,500	Kenji Miyazaki  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Tweedsmuir Caribou Road Restoration	6-283	This project will benefit the Tweedsmuir–Entiako caribou herd by using functional and ecological restoration techniques to restore 100-150 kilometres of road and fire guard linear features in high-value, low-elevation winter range with the goal of increasing intact caribou habitat and reducing predator-prey interactions through decreasing predator and human access.	(ongoing)**	Laura Greene  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Atlin East Sheep Movement Monitoring & Baseline Health Assessment	6-299	The Taku River Tlingit First Nations and Province of BC have partnered to understand habitat use, migration, and health of Tawéi (Tlingit word for thinhorn sheep) near Atlin. Results will provide information on home range, seasonal habitat selection and movement, survivorship outcomes, and more, as well as support a baseline collection of sheep health. This will clarify the potential effects of a proposed hydro dam and opportunities for habitat enhancement, and will build on traditional and Western scientific knowledge on the Atlin East herd to support better management for Tawéi.	\$18,170	Shannon Whelan  Taku Wildlife
Telkwa Caribou Road Restoration	6-319	This project will benefit the Telkwa caribou herd through the restoration of approximately 100 kilometres of road that will reduce interactions with predators, reduce habitat availability and access for alternate prey, and increase intact caribou habitat (mature-old forest) into the future.	(ongoing)**	Laura Greene  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Skeena Collaborative Wildlife Habitat Field Monitoring	6-330	This multi-year collaborative project is developing a multi-species habitat tool for key wildlife and culturally significant plants in the Skeena region. By identifying existing high-quality and high-potential areas for moose, grizzly bear, and huckleberry, it supports informed wildlife management and land use decisions. This tool is already guiding cumulative effects work and the development of new forest landscape plans in the region, and can support modernized land use planning, habitat protection and enhancement, and Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.	\$106,400	Karine Pigeon  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Mountain Goat Winter Range Restoration in Northwestern B.C.	6-349	A significant number of in-block forest service roads intersect mountain goat winter ranges, increasing predator efficiency and anthropogenic disturbance within sensitive habitats. The project goal is to mitigate these issues by establishing pre- and post-implementation research stations and ecologically restoring select road sections that increase access to sensitive habitats.	\$134,628	Gary McQuaid  Wai Wah Environmental

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 6: Skeena

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Assessing Conservation Status of Lake Trout in the Skeena Region	6-352	Through this project, Confluentus Fisheries Services will obtain accurate relative abundance and demographic data for 12 road-accessible lake trout populations in the Skeena and Nechako watersheds within the Skeena region, to improve interpretation of the status of the stocks and maintain quality angling opportunities.	\$38,862	Bryce O'Connor  Confluentus Fisheries Services
South Skeena Grizzly Bear Habitat Restoration Through Road Deactivation	6-354	The project aims to reduce road densities in south Skeena to increase the amount of secure habitat for grizzly bears. It will also have significant benefits for all species sensitive to habitat fragmentation and linear features. Objectives for the 2026-2027 year are to complete machine works (e.g. activities necessary for road deactivation and access control) on 15-20 km of candidate roads identified in the South Ootsa, followed by identification of 20-30 km of additional candidate roads in the broader south Skeena area.	\$105,620	Karine Pigeon  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Creation of Potential Dens for Taan • Táan (Black Bears) on Haida Gwaii	6-356	The Haida Nation has a long and close relationship with taan • táan (black bear), which is a subspecies unique to Haida Gwaii alone. On Haida Gwaii, taan • táan den in cavities in large-diameter hollow kayd • kiid (trees) or associated structures (i.e., cavities in or under logs, root boles, and stumps), but dens have been reduced on the landscape due to old industrial logging practices. This project will restore denning opportunities for taan • táan in areas that were targeted by large-scale industrial clearcut logging by enhancing suitable stumps to create 10-15 new potential denning structures, which, alongside landscape planning, will combat deficits in denning habitat.	\$40,836	Catch Catomeris  Council of the Haida Nation



6-299: Atlin East Sheep Movement Monitoring & Baseline Health Assessment

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Peace	7-98	Operation & Maintenance will include winter aeration of Inga and Sundance Lakes, educational trips to the Inga Lake spawning channel, Swan Lake fishway maintenance, and Stewart Lake weir maintenance.	\$25,300	James Morgan  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Elk Migration and Sightability Correction Factor Trials in Central B.C.	7-518	Collared female elk in the Vanderhoof agricultural area will be monitored to determine behaviour, habitat selection, migratory strategies, patterns, and pathways. Collars are highly visible for the purpose of mark-resight surveys to determine appropriate statistical sightability correction factors for elk in northern British Columbia, which will be applied to future abundance estimates without the need for collars.	\$10,000	Matt Scheideman  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Prescribed Burns for Wild Sheep Enhancement in Northeastern B.C.	7-540	This project will restore and enhance Stone's sheep habitat in current and historical range to support and grow healthy sheep populations. Non-forested habitats, including natural subalpine grasslands and grassland-shrub complexes, will be treated with prescribed fire to increase the quantity and quality of forage, increase the traversability of sites by removing blow down and dense shrubs, and decrease vertical structure to meet the seasonal foraging requirements of wild sheep. Approximately 250-1,000 ha of Stone's sheep habitat will be burned annually.	\$166,889	Alicia Woods  Ridgeline Wildlife Enhancement
Determining Mechanisms of Decline of the Robson Valley Mountain Goats	7-585	Mountain goats are an iconic species in B.C., but declines have been detected across much of their range, including the Robson Valley in eastern B.C. Hunter harvest does not appear to be the primary mechanism of decline in the Robson Valley; therefore, other mechanisms of decline must be assessed to provide recommendations for goat conservation and management. This project aims to understand survival, recruitment, causes of mortality, movement, and sightability of the Robson Valley goat population, and compare to previous work conducted in 1997-99 to determine population limiting factors and provide management recommendations.	\$61,670*	Kara MacAulay  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
SugarBowl-Grizzly Den Provincial Park and Protected Area Legacy Linear Features Restoration Project	7-593	This project will benefit the North Cariboo caribou subpopulation by functionally restoring 20 km of forest-harvesting legacy linear features in Sugarbowl-Grizzly Den Provincial Park and Protected Area, thereby reducing predator movement and eliminating human recreational access within this important low/mid-elevation caribou habitat.	\$48,369* **	Brandon Geldart  Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC
Habitat Selection and Survival of Porcupines	7-597	This project aims to understand the habitat use, survival, and den-site ecology of North American porcupines in north-central B.C. Through GPS telemetry, field surveys, and collaboration with local trappers, guide outfitters, and First Nations, it will produce the first comprehensive dataset on porcupine ecology in the region. The results will inform fisher recovery efforts by identifying key habitat attributes that support porcupine populations and by providing science-based guidance for incorporating these findings into planning and provincial wildlife management policies.	\$30,000*	Krista Sittler  Wildex Consulting Ltd.
Assessing Seasonal Mountain Goat Survey Effectiveness	7-599	Mountain goats are an iconic wildlife species in B.C. with multiple significant values. Their management relies on accurate population estimates that follow standards of total count aerial surveys in early/midsummer for interior goat populations. Goat sightability is generally low (around 65%) and influenced by behaviour and weather conditions. Winter surveys have been suggested as an approach to increase sightability and provide efficiencies in monitoring multiple mountain ungulate species simultaneously; however, this approach remains untested. This project aims to compare winter, summer, and fall survey timing to investigate seasonal changes in goat detection.	\$25,500	Morgan Anderson  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Swannell River Valley	7-603	This project aims to annually restore 10 kilometres of roads in the Swannell River Valley, an area identified as containing low-elevation core habitat for the Chase Caribou, with the goal of reducing predator movement.	(ongoing)**	Sean Rapai Chu Cho Environmental
Wildlife Use of Structural Retention in Harvested Stands	7-609	Widespread and accelerated habitat change from forestry (mountain pine beetle epidemic and associated salvage harvest) in north-central B.C. has resulted in fundamental changes to the structural characteristics of forests that are important to wildlife. Structural retention practices are being used with increasing frequency and have the potential to maintain wildlife values in harvested stands. The main goal of this project is to investigate the influence of retention harvest on wildlife species and biodiversity and use this information to improve existing management practices for wildlife and their habitat.	\$23,100	Shannon Crowley Chuzghun Resources Corp. (John Prince Research Forest)
Mount Bullmoose and Mount Spieker – Quintette A and B Prescription Areas	7-614	This project will benefit the Quintette caribou herd by restoring approximately 73.5 kilometres of linear features using functional and ecological methods within high-priority restoration polygons identified in the Strategic Caribou Restoration Implementation Plan.	(ongoing)* **	Kiara Gannon BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Quality Waters Strategy - Omineca	7-616	This project's activities include snorkel counts and adding signage to important access areas of the classified Stellako River. The outcomes desired are to continue to provide population trend data for all counted size classes of fish and evaluate changes in the fishery in response to regulation and relevant environmental changes.	\$2,500	Ian Spendlow BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Underplanting Keystone Tree Species in Vulnerable Ecosystems	7-640	This project aims to identify vulnerable ecosystems, such as the mid-bench floodplains and adjacent upland sub-mesic to xeric ecosystems, particularly if they have been damaged from wildfire or disease, and establish keystone tree species such as Douglas-fir or black cottonwoods, to enhance fisher and other threatened, endangered, and vulnerable species habitats. The target is to assess up to 300 hectares, establish up to 150,000 keystone species planted, and record the ecosystems to BC CDC website custodians. Approaching these sites with careful ecological site assessment will ensure a higher rate of success in stand establishment and wildlife benefits.	\$163,500	Diana Gerdenits Society for Ecosystem Restoration in Northern BC
Behavioural Responses of Black Bears to Changing Climate and Landscapes	7-643	This project will inform the understanding of the ultimate causes of human-bear interactions. GPS collars, wildlife cameras, and dietary analysis will be used to understand the behavioural and distributional responses of adult black bears to landscape change and seasonal and interannual variation in weather (and presumably climate). Findings will increase our understanding of the habitat, behavioural, and population ecology of the understudied black bear; generate guidance for human-bear coexistence; and contribute to land-use planning and forest management designed to retain natural habitats for bears that can mitigate the effects of future climate change.	\$55,229	Chris Johnson University of Northern BC
The Effects of Glyphosate-based Herbicide on Small Mammals	7-645	Glyphosate-based herbicides (GBH) are applied extensively throughout Canada by various industrial sectors, and their use globally has increased exponentially in the last decade. Despite these applications, the effects of GBH on forested ecosystems are unclear and recent evidence suggests they may influence wildlife health negatively through changes in the gut microbiome community and hormone regulation. As part of a larger research initiative examining the effects of GBH on forested ecosystems, this study will investigate the effects of GBH application on small mammals (i.e., voles and mice) with the goal of informing decisions around forest management strategies.	\$45,816	Heather Bryan University of Northern BC

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 7: Omineca-Peace

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Wild vs. Prescribed Fire: Effects on Northern Ungulates One Year Post-Burn	7-646	This project will compare the short-term (1-year) response of Stone's sheep and elk to a recent large wildfire relative to previous prescribed burns studied in the Besa-Prophet area. Using the same permanent transects and field protocols from Wildex's previous long-term prescribed fire study, they will measure vegetation structure, forage availability, and animal use based on pellet counts. Results will provide a rare empirical comparison of how fire type influences ungulate use and forage dynamics in northern B.C.	\$99,955	Krista Sittler Wildex Consulting Ltd.



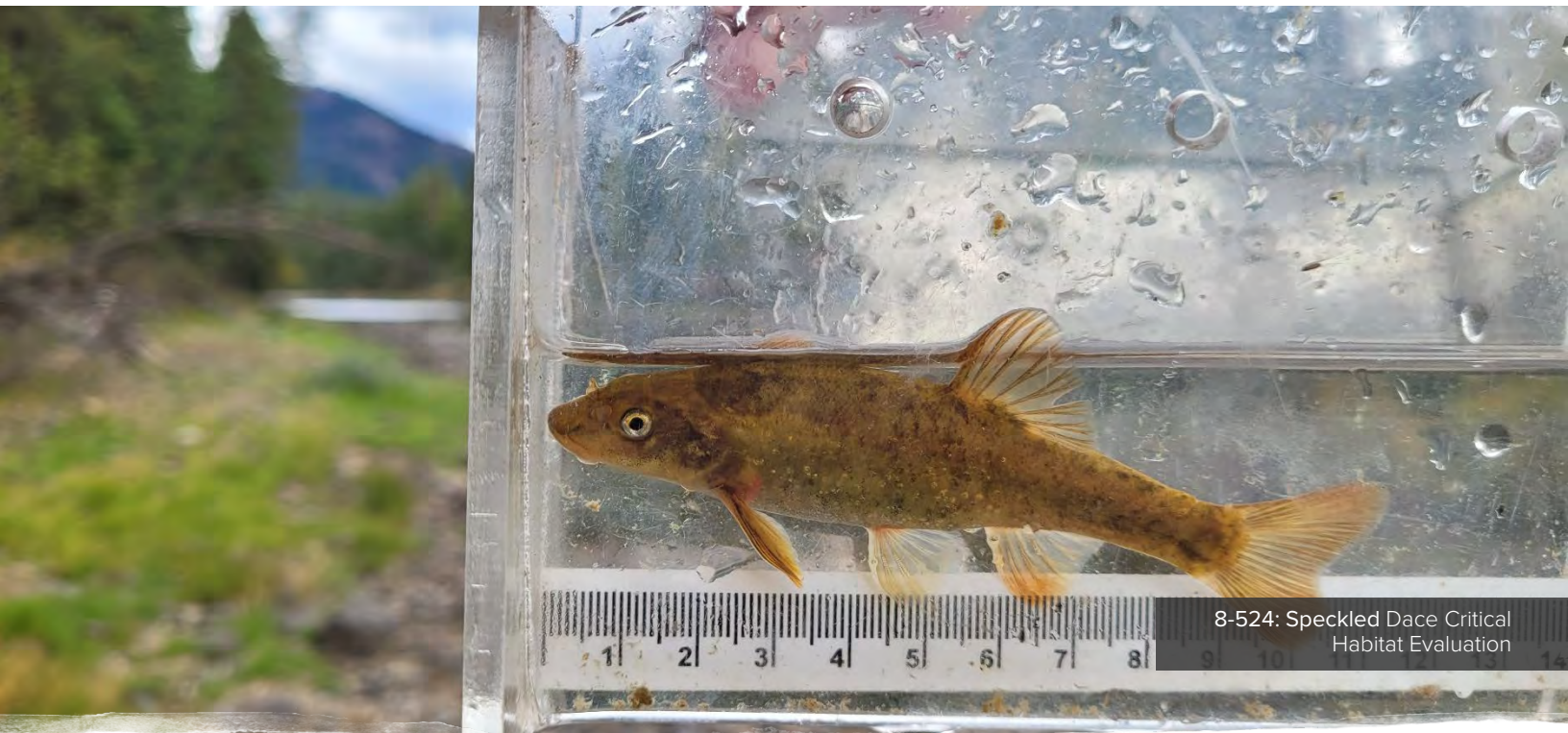
7-603: Swannell River Valley

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Fisheries O&M - Okanagan	8-124	This project covers the Operations and Maintenance of fisheries in the Okanagan Region. The key activities are the aeration of Burnell, Kidd, Yellow, Gardom, and Martins Lakes; dam maintenance on 14 Okanagan region lakes with conservation water licenses; and maintenance of kokanee (and rainbow) spawning habitat: Mission Creek spawning channel maintenance, Vaseux Creek fishway maintenance, Peachland Creek restoration structure maintenance and gravel scarification, Vernon creeks restoration structure maintenance.	\$99,000	Amanda Turner  BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Boundary Invasive Mussel Sampling	8-436	This project will monitor Jewel Lake and Kettle River for invasive mussels through sampling to test for the presence of mussel veligers.	\$7,183	Barb Stewart  Boundary Invasive Species Society
Monitoring for Invasive Mussels in the Okanagan-Similkameen	8-438	This project will monitor for invasive mussels in the Okanagan region, including plankton tow sampling for veliger detection.	\$33,844	Lisa Scott  Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society
Upper Shuswap Resistivity Counter to Estimate Bull Trout Abundance	8-498	The goal of this project is to install a resistivity counter in the Upper Shuswap River above Sugar Lake to monitor the adfluvial bull trout population migration upstream to the spawning grounds as well as post-spawned and sub-adult bull trout migration downstream to Sugar Lake. The resistivity counter will be used to provide independent estimates of spawn timing, duration, and spawner abundance of adult bull trout, as well as additional data on the movement patterns of adult and subadult bull trout.	\$102,635	Daniel Ramos-Espinoza  InStream Fisheries Research Inc.
Okanagan Wild Sheep Disease Management	8-508	The Okanagan's blue-listed yilík*lxkn (bighorn sheep) populations have been impacted by several diseases, leading to significant population declines. This initiative will continue to build on a region-wide disease management strategy for yilík*lxkn, asse ssing Psoroptes infection severity and spread, population health, herd interactions, and Psoroptic Mange treatment options. This work will inform the timing and application of treatment protocols to manage and potentially eradicate Psoroptes across all affected herds in the Okanagan.	\$24,445*	Cailyn Glasser  Okanagan Nation Alliance
Are White-Tailed Deer Impeding Mule Deer Recovery?	8-517	White-tailed deer occur throughout the Okanagan, and preliminary evidence suggests their presence could be detrimental to, or at least intertwined with, the decline of mule deer. Little is known regarding the factors that affect white-tailed deer survival and expansion in the region. This project will identify the specifics of migration/movement, habitat use, and survival for white-tailed deer related to landscape disturbance (e.g., fire, logging, roads, etc.), with insights tied directly to factors affecting coexistence with other species, forage abundance, and the oncoming spread of Chronic Wasting Disease.	\$85,633*	Adam Ford  University of British Columbia Okanagan
Assessing Riparian Refugia for Birds as Heat Waves Increase	8-520	The project goal is to determine whether riparian habitats offer birds refuge from extreme summer temperatures in the Okanagan Valley. UBC will measure the daily vocal activity of breeding birds relative to temperature and determine the importance of riparian microclimates in supporting bird diversity across the spring and summer. As heat waves intensify with climate change, the project will improve understanding of how birds use habitats in extreme heat, thus informing management of sensitive riparian floodplains to protect biodiversity and enable climate resilience.	\$59,754	Karen Hodges  University of British Columbia Okanagan

## Approved Projects Taking Place in Region 8: Okanagan

Project Name	Project #	Project Description	Grant Amount *	Contact Information
Speckled Dace Critical Habitat Evaluation	8-524	The goal of this project is to evaluate Speckled Dace Critical Habitat Areas (CHA) in the Kettle River Watershed by addressing the following needs: (1) Verify geospatial areas proposed as critical habitat do contain suitable habitat, and confirm abundance within these proposed CHAs; (2) Develop accurate biophysical descriptions of the proposed critical habitat locations and establish monitoring programs at each location; and (3) Sample the stream sections immediately above the delineated critical habitat for Speckled Dace. Results from this project will either validate the CHAs as effective conservation areas or provide data to adjust them to reach conservation targets.	\$14,595	Evan Smith Okanagan Nation Alliance
Peachland Creek Restoration	8-530	Spawning habitat within Peachland Creek is supported by a system of instream spawning platforms and weirs. The structures were subject to significant flood damage in 2017/2018 and have aged out. The goal of this project is to develop and implement a restoration plan for Peachland Creek that will facilitate the long-term stability of high-quality spawning habitat and preserve the integrity of the system's kokanee recruitment production.	\$75,000*	Karilyn Alex Okanagan Nation Alliance
Shingle Creek Riparian Corridor Stewardship	8-558	This seed project supports preliminary research, prioritization, and collaboration to guide potential future restoration activities in the riparian corridors in the Shingle Creek watershed, one of the last relatively intact systems in the South Okanagan.	\$10,000*	Gemma Almendros Penticton Indian Band
Assessing Road Mortality and Habitat Connectivity in the Kootenay Boundary	8-560	This project aims to address the issue of landscape fragmentation and loss of connectivity for reptiles and amphibians in the Kootenay Boundary region. The primary goal is to reduce road mortality on Highway 3 by utilizing the existing infrastructure, combined with fencing and upgrading existing crossings to fully functional eco-passages. These actions will support healthier populations and more resilient ecosystems by reconnecting critical habitats for amphibians and reptiles at risk and benefiting any wildlife able to use safe-passage culvert infrastructure.	\$9,858	Caroline Lafond Okanagan Nation Alliance



8-524: Speckled Dace Critical Habitat Evaluation